The coach wanted Art to show him everything he could do with a baseball. The catcher had stuffed a rag into his mitt so that Art's fast ball would not sting his hand so much.

"Let's see your fast ball," the coach said.

Art leaned back and—"Zip—pow." The catcher said, "Ow! That rag doesn't help very much." He tossed the ball back to Art.

Art dropped the ball. He picked it up and looked at the coach. The coach said, "Now can you make the ball curve?"

"What do you mean?" Art asked.

"Make the ball bend to the left or bend to the right."

"Oh, that," Art said. "Which way do you want me to make it bend?"
The coach stared at Art for a moment. Then he said, "Make it curve to the left."
"Okay," Art said.

Art leaned back and to the side. He said to himself, "This is just like making a stone curve to the left."
Art's arm whipped out to the side, and the ball went flying. It was going far to the right of the catcher. The catcher began to reach to the right. Then the ball curved and hit him in the chest.
"Wow!" the coach said. "Who showed you how to do that?"
Art said, "Nobody." Then he told the coach about skipping stones on the pond every day.

The coach had Art throw a lot of balls that day. The coach had him throw balls that curved to the left and balls that curved to the right. The coach had him throw balls that dipped down just before they reached the catcher. He had Art throw balls that jumped up just before they reached the catcher.
The crowd on the side lines clapped after every ball Art heaved. And after every ten balls, the coach had a different catcher work with Art. After catching ten of his pitches, a catcher's hand was very sore.

Art worked out with the baseball team for three weeks. Then the team had its first game. The game was with a big school, West High School. West High was always a top team in the state. It had been the best team in the state three years before. Last year, it had been the third-best team in the state. Art's school had never beaten West High in a baseball game.
Art didn’t sleep well before the game with West High. He kept thinking about the game. He wanted to do a good job. He hoped that he wouldn’t throw a bad ball or make a mistake.

About two hundred kids from Art’s school went to the game. About four hundred kids from West High came to cheer for West. They cheered and cheered. But they jeered as Art’s team came out to start the game.

[2]

Art didn’t like to hear the West High fans jeer at his team. He said to himself, “Why are they yelling those things? They’ve never seen us play.” But the fans from West High kept on jeering and jeering.

West High was to bat first. So Art went to the pitcher’s mound. The catcher tossed the ball to him, and Art dropped it.

“Ha, ha,” a fan yelled. “He can’t even catch the ball. Get a rake! Can you rake that ball in? Ho, ho.”

The first batter was a big boy. He held the bat back and glared at Art. Art didn’t like the way he glared, and Art tried not to look at the batter.

[1]

Art tried to think about pitching. He said to himself, “Don’t throw the ball too high. Don’t throw it too low. Don’t throw it to the left of the plate. Don’t throw it to the right of the plate.”

Art was not thinking well. He was telling himself what he should not do. He should have been telling himself what he should do. He should have been saying, “Throw that ball right over the plate—right over it.”

Art leaned back and gave the ball a heave. It went about nine feet over the catcher’s mitt.

[1]
Read the sentences and answer the questions.

Art worked out with the baseball team after school.
After three weeks, the team had its first game.

1. Who did Art work out with? __________________________
2. When did the team work out? _________________________
3. What happened after the team worked out for three weeks?

________________________________________________________________

Write the answers to these questions:

1. Why did the catcher stuff a rag into his mitt?

________________________________________________________________

2. Who showed Art how to throw a curve ball? ________________________
3. Why did the coach put in different catchers to work with Art?

________________________________________________________________

4. What team did Art’s team play first? ______________________________
5. How many times had Art’s school beaten West High before? __________
6. What things was Art telling himself as he pitched to the first batter?

________________________________________________________________

The words in the first column have endings. Write the same words without the endings in the second column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>batter</th>
<th>beaten</th>
<th>glared</th>
<th>lonely</th>
<th>staring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Write the 3rd sentence of Story 6.

________________________________________________________________
Part 1
Write these words without endings.
1. whipped
2. laughing
3. leaned
4. tallest
5. raises
6. blushed
7. stones
8. faking

Part 2
Match the words and complete them.

- started
- springing
- deeply
- smiled
- closer
- eep
- sm
- ar
- ing
- cl

Part 3
Write 1, 2, or 3 in front of each sentence to show when these things happened in the story. Then write the sentences in the blanks.

1. ________ Art kept telling himself what he should not do.
2. ________ Art didn’t sleep well before the game with West High.
3. ________ He leaned back and tossed the ball about nine feet over the catcher’s mitt.
Art's Fast Ball

Art didn’t know what to do. He wanted to leave, but everybody was yelling, “Come on, Art, show us how to pitch.” Some boys grabbed Art and started to lead him to the pitcher’s mound. “Here he is, Coach,” one of the boys hollered. “The star pitcher.”

The coach walked up to Art. He said, “I don’t know what this is all about, but we’ve got work to do out here. So throw the ball to the catcher. That will shut those guys up. Then get out of here.”

“Okay,” Art said. The coach handed him the ball.

Art turned to the coach and said, “Do I just try to throw it at the catcher as hard as I can?”

“That’s right,” the coach said. “Just throw it and get out of here.”

The ball felt a little too big in Art’s hand. It didn’t seem to fit as well as a skipping stone. He rubbed it a few times and got a good grip on it. Then he leaned back.

“Show them how—if you can,” the boys yelled.

Art’s long arm went back like a whip. Then it came forward like a whip. “Zip—pow.” The catcher was on his seat.

A Note to the Parent

Listen to the student read the passage. Count the number of words read in one minute and the number of errors.

Number of words read ____________ Number of errors ____________

We read the story ____________ times.

(Parent’s/Listener’s) signature ____________________________

Date ____________________________

Reading fluency
wouldn’t reached coach
breathed started streak called

umpire cheering catch silent
fans who shouldn’t mumbled

sting string Chuck stared
zing guy plate want
weren’t doesn’t isn’t thrown
crapping shaking strike ready
taken state moment pitcher curve

Some Bad Pitches

Art had just thrown a bad ball. And the West High fans
were cheering and clapping. “That’s the way to pitch,” they
yelled.

The catcher tossed the ball back to Art, and Art dropped it.
The West High fans cheered again. The fans from Art’s school
were silent.

Art picked up the ball. He breathed in and out three times.
Then he said to himself, “Don’t throw the ball too high. Don’t
throw the ball too high.” Art was not thinking well again.

Art heaved the ball. It went like a streak. But it went about
ten feet over the catcher’s head. The catcher called time out
and ran to the pitcher’s mound.
The fans from West High cheered. "Get another pitcher," they yelled. "This one has had it."

The catcher said, "What's the matter, Art?"

"I don't know," Art said. His hand was shaking. "I can't make the ball go where I want it to go."

"Yes, you can, Art," the catcher said. "Just think about skipping stones. I'll hold out my mitt. You must throw that ball right into the mitt. Throw it just like you throw a stone. You can do it."

"I'll try," Art said.

The catcher jogged back, and Art rubbed the ball around in his hand. He looked at the catcher's mitt, and he said to himself, "I'll throw that ball right into the mitt. I'll do it."

Now Art was thinking the right way. He leaned back. His arm whipped back. The ball came from his hand like a shot. "Zip—pow."

"Strike one," called the umpire.

The fans from Art's school cheered. The fans from West High mumbled. They said, "Was that a lucky toss?"

Art got ready for his next pitch. Everybody was silent. "Zip—pow." The catcher was down.

"Strike two," the umpire called.

The batter did not have a mean look now. He got set for the next pitch. He hadn't taken a swing at any of Art's pitches so far. Now he seemed set to take a swing at the next ball.

Art leaned back and—"Zip—pow." The catcher was down. And the batter began to swing after the ball had reached the catcher.
The fans from Art’s school cheered and cheered. They jumped up and down. They hugged each other. They yelled, “Go to it, Art. Show them how to pitch.”

The fans from West were very silent. Then some of them began to cheer, “Come on, Chuck. Get a hit off that pitcher.”

Chuck was the next batter. He smiled as he walked up to the plate. The catcher jogged out to talk to Art. “This guy is good,” the catcher said. “He is one of the best batters in the state. Don’t give him anything he can hit.”

So Art began to think to himself, “Don’t give him anything he can hit. Don’t give him a slow ball.”

Art was not thinking right again. He was thinking about what he shouldn’t do. He should have been thinking about what he should do. He was telling himself, “Don’t throw a slow ball.”

And what do you think Art did? He gave Chuck the biggest slow ball you have ever seen. And Chuck hit that ball right out of the park. The fans from West High jumped up and down. They hugged each other. They cheered and yelled. “A home run! A home run!”

The catcher jogged out to talk with Art again. The catcher said, “Art, that was a bad pitch. You can throw better than that. Just zing the ball in. Just think about skipping stones. You can do it.”

The next batter came up. He was as tall as Art. The fans clapped and cheered when he got near the plate. “You are the best, Bob,” one of them yelled.
Art remembered that Bob was the best batter on the West team. For a moment, Art began to think about the things that he should not do. Then he remembered what the catcher had said. He stared at the catcher’s mitt, and he said to himself, “I’ll just zing the ball right into that mitt.”
1. Read the sentences and answer the questions.
The catcher tossed the ball back to Art, and Art dropped it.
The West High fans cheered again.

1. Who tossed the ball to Art?

2. What did Art do?

3. Who cheered?

2. Write the two words that make up each word.

baseball = _______________ + _______________
anybody = _______________ + _______________
himself = _______________ + _______________
someone = _______________ + _______________
notebook = _______________ + _______________

3. Write the answers to these questions:

1. What did the catcher tell Art to think about?

2. What did Chuck do to the slow ball that Art gave him?

4. The words in the first column have endings. Write the same words without endings in the second column.

longer
lonely
blushed
skipped
liking

5. Write the 1st sentence of Story 7.
Part 1
Read the sentences and answer the questions.
Art remembered that Bob was the best batter on the West team. For a moment, Art began to think about the things that he should not do.
1. Who was Bob? ____________________________________________

2. When Art remembered about Bob, what did Art begin to think about? ____________________________

3. For how long did Art think about those things? ____________________________

Part 2
Write these words without endings.
1. deeply ____________________________ 5. baker ____________________________
2. grabbed ____________________________ 6. taking ____________________________
3. loudly ____________________________ 7. smiling ____________________________
4. smartest ____________________________ 8. muttered ____________________________

Part 3
Read the words in the box. Then fill in the blanks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stared</th>
<th>start</th>
<th>up</th>
<th>hugged</th>
<th>sat</th>
<th>passed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hit</td>
<td>leaned</td>
<td>cheered</td>
<td>pitched</td>
<td>swing</td>
<td>shake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jumped</td>
<td>throw</td>
<td>down</td>
<td>reached</td>
<td>clapped</td>
<td>tossed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Art ____________ back and—“Zip—pow.” The catcher was ____________. And the batter began to ____________ after the ball had ____________ the catcher.

The fans from Art’s school cheered and cheered. They ____________ up and down. They ____________ each other. They yelled, “Go to it, Art. Show them how to pitch.”

Details, suffixes, vocabulary/context clues
The School Team

The coach wanted Art to show him everything he could do with a baseball. The catcher had stuffed a rag into his mitt so that Art’s fast ball would not sting his hand so much.

“Let’s see your fast ball,” the coach said.

Art leaned back and—“Zip—pow.” The catcher said, “Ow! That rag doesn’t help very much.” He tossed the ball back to Art.

Art dropped the ball. He picked it up and looked at the coach. The coach said, “Now can you make the ball curve?”

“What do you mean?” Art asked.

“Make the ball bend to the left or bend to the right.”

“Oh, that,” Art said. “Which way do you want me to make it bend?”

The coach stared at Art for a moment. Then he said, “Make it curve to the left.”

“Okay,” Art said.

Art leaned back and to the side. He said to himself, “This is just like making a stone curve to the left.”

Art’s arm whipped out to the side, and the ball went flying. It was going far to the right of the catcher. The catcher began to reach to the right. Then the ball curved and hit him in the chest.
started always whistle also
groaned almost reared wound

league since pitcher couldn't two
different what went want

batters crowded handshakes struck
done tried tired there's stared
star care Tigers you'll doesn't
hadn't weren't winner ducked

Art Becomes a Star

The best batter on the West team was at the plate. Art was thinking about what the catcher had told him. Art reared back. He let the ball fly. "Zip—pow." The catcher was on his seat again.

"Strike one," the umpire called.

"You can do it, Bob," the West fans yelled.

Art got the ball again. He looked at the catcher's mitt. He reared back and let the ball fly. The ball started to go right at the batter. The batter ducked down. But almost before he could move, the ball curved and went right into the catcher's mitt.

"Strike two," the umpire called.
Again Art wound up and let the ball fly. Bob took a big swing at it, but the ball was in the catcher’s mitt before Bob began to swing.

“Strike three. You’re out.”

“Oh, no,” the West High School fans groaned.

“Go, Art, go,” the fans from Art’s school yelled.

And Art went. He struck out every other batter in the game. Art did not do well when he tried to bat, but his team was the winner. They beat West High School 3 to 1.

Everybody from Art’s school yelled and crowded around Art. They cheered. They patted him on the back. They gave him handshakes and smiles.

Art was so happy that he just sat down after all of the fans had left. He just sat and remembered the game. “Wow!” he said to himself. “I did it.”

After that first game, things were different in school. The kids smiled at Art. They went out of their way to talk to him. Art felt a lot better about school. In fact, school was a lot of fun for Art now. He waved to the girls. He wasn’t afraid to talk to girls. He didn’t look down when he talked to them. He had done that before, but now he was Art the Star, the big pitcher.

And Art started to talk like a star. He began to act like a big star. He began to make fun of some of the other kids. He began to show off in front of the girls. He began to talk a lot more.

One day, he said to himself, “I want Patty to be my girl friend.” So he walked up to her before class and said, “I’m not doing anything after school, so why don’t we go for a walk?”

“No, thanks, Art,” she said.
Art didn’t know what to say then. Since he had become a pitching star, nobody said, “No, thanks, Art.” They always said, “Yes, Art.”

Art looked at Patty. “If that’s the way you want it,” he said, and walked down the hall. He started to whistle, just to show her that he didn’t care if she went with him. But he felt bad. He liked Patty. But there was something in the way she talked that told Art, “I don’t like you, Art.”

Art was still thinking about Patty when somebody said, “Art. Art. The coach wants to see you right now.”

“What does he want?” Art said.

The boy said, “I don’t know, but it’s something big.”

Art went with the boy to see the coach. The coach said, “Art, there’s going to be a big league baseball game in town. And before the game, they want some of the best high school pitchers to throw for the batters. I want you to throw for our school.”

“Will I play in the game?” Art said.

“No,” the coach said. “The Reds will be playing the Tigers. But before the game, you will pitch to some of the batters. Some of the other high schools are sending pitchers to do the same thing.”

“That will be fun,” Art said.

His coach said, “You’ll be pitching to some of the best batters in baseball.”
Lesson 8

1. Read the sentences and answer the questions.
The best batter on the West team was at the plate.
Art was thinking about what the catcher had told him.
1. Who was at the plate?

2. What was Art thinking about?

3. Where was the West team batter?

2. Write the answers to these questions:
1. Who won the game?

2. Name some ways that things were different for Art at school.

3. How did Art act now that he was Art the Star?

4. What did the coach want Art to do before the big league game?

3. The words in the first column have endings. Write the same words without endings in the second column.
catcher
cheering
clapping
stared
bitten

4. Write the word attention. Make a line over tion.
Write the word whistle. Make a line under wh.
Part 1
Read the sentences in the box. Then write the answer to each question.

After the first game, things were different in school. The kids smiled at Art. They went out of their way to talk to him. Art felt a lot better about school. In fact, school was a lot of fun for Art now. He waved to the girls. He wasn’t afraid to talk to girls. He didn’t look down when he talked to them. He had done that before, but now he was Art the Star, the big pitcher.

1. When were things different in school for Art?

2. Name two ways that things were different in school.

3. Why wasn’t Art afraid to talk to the girls now?

Part 2
Write these words without endings.

1. rider
2. riding
3. smiles
4. remembered
5. groaned
6. patted

Part 3
Read the sentences and answer the questions.
Art said to Patty, “If that’s the way you want it,” and walked down the hall.
He started to whistle, just to show her that he didn’t care if she went with him.

1. Who walked down the hall?

2. Why did Art start whistling?

3. What did Art do as he walked down the hall?

Make inferences, suffixes, draw conclusions based on evidence
Some Bad Pitches

Art had just thrown a bad ball. And the West High fans were cheering and clapping. "That's the way to pitch," they yelled.

The catcher tossed the ball back to Art, and Art dropped it. The West High fans cheered again. The fans from Art's school were silent.

Art picked up the ball. He breathed in and out three times. Then he said to himself, "Don't throw the ball too high. Don't throw the ball too high." Art was not thinking well again.

Art heaved the ball. It went like a streak. But it went about ten feet over the catcher's head. The catcher called time out and ran to the pitcher's mound.

The fans from West High cheered. "Get another pitcher," they yelled. "This one has had it."

The catcher said, "What's the matter, Art?"

"I don't know," Art said. His hand was shaking. "I can't make the ball go where I want it to go."

"Yes, you can, Art," the catcher said. "Just think about skipping stones. I'll hold out my mitt. You must throw that ball right into the mitt. Throw it just like you throw a stone. You can do it."

"I'll try," Art said.

The catcher jogged back, and Art rubbed the ball around in his hand.
First Inning

Art was going to pitch to some big league players before the game on Sunday. His coach had told him that he would be pitching to some of the best batters in baseball.

The game was to start at one o’clock. Art was to begin pitching at noon. But at 12 o’clock there were not very many fans in the stands. Art walked to the pitcher’s mound and picked up the ball. One of the players from the Tigers said, “Just throw fast balls. The batter will hit them into the left stands. Some of the fans will get free baseballs.”

Art looked up at the left stands. About one hundred kids were up there. Some of them had baseball mitts. Art said, “Should I throw as hard as I can?”

“That’s right,” the player said. “Don’t worry, the batter will hit the ball. You’re pitching to James Hunt. He’ll hit them, all right.”
Art stared at the catcher’s mitt. Then Art reared back and gave the ball the hardest heave he could give it. “Zip—pow.” The catcher was on his seat.

The player who was standing next to Art blinked and stared at Art. James Hunt looked at the catcher, and then he looked at Art. He blinked.

[1]

A fan yelled, “Did you see that? He shot that ball past James Hunt.”

Another fan said, “Hunt is trying to make the kid look good. He’ll belt the next ball.”

But Hunt didn’t have time to swing at the next ball. Before he began his swing, the catcher was on his seat again.

The catcher jogged out to the pitcher’s mound. He said, “Hey, kid, how do you do that? No pitcher has ever set me on my seat before. How do you do that?”

“I just throw hard,” Art said.

And he did throw hard. He struck out James Hunt.

[1]

Art struck out other batters that day. Not many fans were in the park to see what Art had done, but every fan who was there was standing and clapping when Art left the pitcher’s mound.

Art walked over to his coach and sat down. His coach had tears in his eyes. “You are the best,” his coach said.

Then the coach for the Tigers walked up and sat down next to Art. He said, “Not many fans saw that. How would you like to pitch the first inning of the game? I think the fans should see what you can do. If you can strike out my Tigers the way you
did, I’ll bet you can strike out any player on the Reds.”

“Okay,” Art said, and he smiled.

Art was thinking, “Wow! I get to pitch to big league batters in a big league game.”

The fans filed into the ball park, and Art waited. Then a voice came over the loud speaker. It said, “Today a boy from your town will pitch for the Tigers in the first inning. This boy is one of the best pitchers we have seen. His name is Art Garner.”

The fans who had seen Art pitch before the game cheered and clapped. But the other fans didn’t cheer.

One of the fans said, “We didn’t come here to see kids play. We came to see the Reds and the Tigers.”

Art walked to the mound. Then he looked up at the stands. He had never seen so many fans before. Suddenly he became afraid. He began to think about all of the things that he shouldn’t do. “Don’t throw the ball too high,” he told himself.

The catcher tossed the ball to Art. And Art dropped it.

“Boooooo,” yelled some of the fans. “Get that bum out of here.” Art’s hands felt cold, and his legs were shaking.
1. Write 1, 2, or 3 in front of each sentence to show when these things happened in the story. Then write the sentences in the blanks.

   ——— The catcher tossed the ball to Art, and Art dropped it.
   ——— The coach for the Tigers asked Art to pitch the first inning of the game.
   ——— Art pitched to some big league players before the game.

   1. ___________________________________________________________________

   2. ___________________________________________________________________

   3. ___________________________________________________________________

2. Write the answers to these questions:

   1. A player told Art to throw fast balls. What did he think the batters would do to Art’s fast balls?
      ___________________________________________________________________

   2. How far did James Hunt hit the ball?
      ___________________________________________________________________

   3. When Art started to pitch the first inning of the game, he became afraid. What did he start to think about?
      ___________________________________________________________________

3. The words in the first column have endings. Write the same words without endings in the second column.

   tired
   whipped
   jailer
   shaking
   winner
Part 1
Follow the instructions for each item.

1. Write the word would. Make a line over ou!.

2. Write the word almost. Make a line over al.

3. Write the word ducked. Make a line under ck.

Part 2
Write these words with ed endings.

1. play ____________________________

2. whistle __________________________

3. jog _____________________________

Part 3
Write these words with er endings.

1. bat _____________________________

2. start ___________________________

3. play ____________________________

Part 4
Read the sentences in the box. Then write the answer to each question.

Before the game, some fans didn't cheer. One of the fans said, "We didn't come here
to see kids play. We came to see the Reds and the Tigers."

Art walked to the mound. Then he looked up at the stands. He had never seen so
many fans before. Suddenly he became afraid. He began to think about all of the things
that he shouldn't do. "Don't throw the ball too high," he told himself.

1. Why didn't some fans cheer? ________________________________________

2. When Art looked up at the stands, what did he see? ______________________

3. What did Art say to himself? _________________________________________

Sound/symbol correspondence, suffixes, details

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Art Becomes a Star

The best batter on the West team was at the plate. Art was thinking about what the catcher had told him. Art reared back. He let the ball fly. "Zip—pow." The catcher was on his seat again. "Strike one," the umpire called. "You can do it, Bob," the West fans yelled.

Art got the ball again. He looked at the catcher's mitt. He reared back and let the ball fly. The ball started to go right at the batter. The batter ducked down. But almost before he could move, the ball curved and went right into the catcher’s mitt.

"Strike two," the umpire called.

Again Art wound up and let the ball fly. Bob took a big swing at it, but the ball was in the catcher’s mitt before Bob began to swing.

"Strike three. You’re out."

"Oh, no," the West High School fans groaned.

"Go, Art, go," the fans from Art's school yelled.

And Art went. He struck out every other batter in the game. Art did not do well when he tried to bat, but his team was the winner. They beat West High School 3 to 1.

Everybody from Art's school yelled and crowded around Art.

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A Note to the Parent

Listen to the student read the passage. Count the number of words read in one minute and the number of errors.

Number of words read ____________  Number of errors ____________

We read the story ____________ times.

(Parent's/Listener's) signature ________________________________

Date ________________________________

Reading fluency
Lesson 10

1. thousand leaving roared
   waited cheered first while
   these crash leaned right
   proud reared afraid sharp

2. records nurse put watched
   turn voice shy awake worry
   brakes catcher's dollars hospital
   mixed driver closer strapped
   showed lonely onto two alive
   exhibition fist shake cast
   woman booing foot open people

3. Things Take a Bad Turn

   Art was standing on the pitcher's mound. His hands felt cold. The fans were yelling and booing because he had dropped the ball. The catcher yelled to him, “Come on, Art. Just zip it right in here.” He pounded his fist into his mitt.

   Art stared at that mitt. He stared and stared. “Look at that mitt,” he told himself. Now he was thinking the right way again. He said, “I'm going to zip that ball right into the mitt.” He leaned back and shot the ball at the catcher's mitt. The batter didn't have time to start his swing. The catcher was on his seat.

Lesson 10
“Strike one,” the umpire called.

The fans began to say, “Did you see that?” Then the fans fell silent as Art reared back for his next pitch. “Zip—pow.” Down went the catcher again.

“Strike two.”

“Wow!” the fans yelled. Then they waited for Art’s next pitch.

Again Art heaved the ball so hard that the batter did not have time to swing. “Strike three. You’re out.”

The fans clapped and cheered.

Art struck out the next batter with three pitches.

The last batter took a swing at Art’s fast ball, but he missed it by a foot. As Art walked from the pitcher’s mound, all of the fans were standing and clapping. The players from the Tigers and the Reds came out to shake hands with him.

Art felt proud. “Just think,” he said to himself. “Last year, I was lonely and shy. But look at me now. I’m a star.”

And he was a star. That night his dad showed him the paper. There was a story about Art and his pitching. “I’m proud of you, Art,” his dad said.

People from the big league came over to talk to Art that night. A man from the Reds said that he would pay Art three hundred thousand dollars if Art left school and became a pitcher for the Reds. A woman from the Tigers told Art that she would give Art five hundred thousand dollars if Art played with the Tigers.
Art told them that he would have to think about leaving school.

Then some of Art’s friends came over. They wanted to take Art to a party. Art asked his dad and mom, and they said that it was all right for him to go.

So Art got in the car. The driver zipped down the road from Art’s farm. He went faster and faster. “This car is very fast,” he told Art. Art did not like to go fast, but Art didn’t want the other kids to think that he was afraid. So he didn’t say anything.

The car roared down the road. Just then a truck turned onto the road. The driver hit the brakes. The car began to slide. It slid to the left, and then it went back to the right.

Nobody said a thing. They just watched the car come closer and closer to the truck. Closer. Closer.

When Art opened his eyes, he was looking at a green wall. He started to move. Then he saw that he was strapped into a bed. He felt a sharp pain in his arm. His arm was in a cast.

He looked around the room. A nurse was reading Art’s records. When she saw that Art was awake, she put down his records and said, “Well, did you have a good sleep?”

“Where am I?” Art asked.

“You’re in the hospital,” the nurse said. “You are lucky to be alive.”

“What happened?” Art said. Everything seemed mixed up.

“You were in a bad crash,” she said. “A very bad crash.”
Lesson 10

1 Read the sentence and answer the questions.
As Art stood on the pitcher’s mound, his hands felt cold.
1. What happened as Art stood on the pitching mound?

2. Where was Art?

3. When did Art’s hands feel cold?

2 Write the name of the person each sentence tells about.
Art nurse catcher
1. This person yelled, “Just zip it right in here,”
and pounded his fist into his mitt. __________________________

2. There was a story about this person’s pitching
in the paper. __________________________

3. This person did not want the other kids to think
he was afraid to be in a fast car. __________________________

4. This person said, “You are lucky to be alive.” __________________________

5. This person was in a very bad crash. __________________________

3 Write the two words that make up each word.
handshake = __________________________ + __________________________

everything = __________________________ + __________________________

nothing = __________________________ + __________________________

football = __________________________ + __________________________

yourself = __________________________ + __________________________

4 Match the words and complete them.

flight • • ex

exhibition • • sand

thousand • • hos

dollars • • fl

hospital • • ars

Lesson 10
Part 1
Read the sentences in the box. Then write the answer to each question.

People from the big league came over to talk to Art that night. A man from the Reds said that he would pay Art three hundred thousand dollars if Art left school and became a pitcher for the Reds. A woman from the Tigers told Art that she would give Art five hundred thousand dollars if Art played with the Tigers.

Art told them that he would have to think about leaving school.

Then some of Art's friends came over. They wanted to take Art to a party. Art asked his dad and mom, and they said that it was all right for him to go.

1. How much money were the Tigers offering to give to Art if he came and pitched for them?

2. Why did Art want to take time to think about the offers from the two baseball teams?

3. Who told Art it was okay to go to the party?

Part 2
Write the name of the person or the people each sentence tells about.

Art               Art’s mom and dad           Art’s friends
Woman from the Tigers     Man from the Reds

1. These people asked Art to go to a party with them.

2. This person offered Art $300,000 to play baseball.

3. This person asked to go to a party.

4. This person offered Art $500,000 to play baseball.

5. These people said Art could go to a party.

Draw conclusions based on evidence, skim and scan for information/character identification
First Inning

Art was going to pitch to some big league players before the game on Sunday. His coach had told him that he would be pitching to some of the best batters in baseball.

The game was to start at one o’clock. Art was to begin pitching at noon. But at 12 o’clock there were not very many fans in the stands. Art walked to the pitcher’s mound and picked up the ball. One of the players from the Tigers said, “Just throw fast balls. The batter will hit them into the left stands. Some of the fans will get free baseballs.”

Art looked up at the left stands. About one hundred kids were up there. Some of them had baseball mitts. Art said, “Should I throw as hard as I can?”

“That’s right,” the player said. “Don’t worry, the batter will hit the ball. You’re pitching to James Hunt. He’ll hit them, all right.”

Art stared at the catcher’s mitt. Then Art reared back and gave the ball the hardest heave he could give it. “Zip—pow.”

The catcher was on his seat.

The player who was standing next to Art blinked and stared at Art. James Hunt looked at the catcher, and then he looked at Art.

A Note to the Parent

Listen to the student read the passage. Count the number of words read in one minute and the number of errors.

Number of words read ______________  Number of errors ______________

We read the story ______________ times.

(Parent’s/Listener’s) signature __________________________

Date __________________________

Reading fluency